

THE NEW BREED

Central Otago's stunning natural beauty provided the backdrop for the Lord of the Rings trilogy of films, and if you love to ski in the southern hemisphere you will surely know Queenstown. But to wine lovers, and more specifically Pinotphiles, Central Otago is the leading contender for the title of the world's second greatest Pinot Noir producing region. In fact, the winemakers of Central Otago have been so successful in developing a reputation for their own intense, stylish wines that they have completely moved on from comparison to Burgundy. Now, you're more likely to hear about the differences between sub-regions like Gibbston Valley, Bannockburn and Cromwell.

Fortunately for drinkers, there's an abundance of Pinot in Central Otago, so although quality is high and the wines are remarkably consistent, **prices start at seriously affordable levels.** Rocky Point and Mount Difficulty's Roaring Meg have graced the pages of many a Cellar Press, and the current vintages show why they've become so popular. Wild Rock is also terrific value, and set to join the pack. This may be one of the last opportunities to secure stock of Peregrine's trophy winning vintage.

When our buyer came back from a recent trip to NZ, the wine she raved about most was the Coal Pit Tiwaha Pinot Noir. It was a massive hit in our tasting room, and you'll see why when you have your first glass.

